August 3 – 9, 2023 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 31 www.associatednewspapers.net

Owners protest proposed restaurant patio rent hike

Restaurant owners and operators in downtown Plymouth have some serious reservations about a proposed plan to increase the fees their businesses pay to provide outdoor dining.

> *The owners are united in their sharp objections to a plan which would increase the fees the businesses pay by 900 percent.*

The owners are united in their sharp objections to a plan which would increase the fees the businesses pay by 900 percent and decrease the amount of space they are allowed to use. The setback proposed would increase from 6 feet to 9 feet, severely impacting the number of outdoor tables each of the businesses could provide.

Currently, the restaurants pay $1.50 for each square foot of sidewalk or city property they rent during the summer months. The proposal which came before the commission suggests the restaurants should pay $15 per square foot. If approved, the City of Plymouth rate would be the highest in the state. Currently, Northville restaurants are charged $1.50 per square foot, Ann Arbor restaurants pay $1 per square foot and Royal Oak charges the businesses a flat fee of $600, according to the restaurant owners.

Commission members discussed the increase during the July 17 meeting, the restaurant operators said, noting they were "blind sighted" by the issue. They are asking the public for help in rejecting the plan by appearing at the Aug.7 meeting of the commission, when further discussion of the issue is expected to be on the agenda.

They noted that each of their businesses makes substantial investments to create the special atmosphere of downtown Plymouth.

Should the commission approve the plan, the owners said the increased expense could force them to collectively close their patios to outdoor dining. They explained that each of the restaurants is already operating at a very "slim margin" and this increase would be cost prohibitive for them to continue to offer the amenity.

In a prepared statement, the owners explained that the 3-foot decrease in the space they are allowed to use would also have a negative financial impact. In addition to reducing the number of tables the restaurants could serve, some have spent as much as $30,000 to adhere to the other regulations the city has imposed regarding fencing and space. While Plymouth currently requires a minimum 6-foot of pedestrian walkway, other communities require only 5 feet. The owners called the proposed fees

See **Patios,** page 2

Rolling along

5th Annual Community Bike Riders fill neighborhood streets

The fifth annual Community Bike Ride throughout the City of Romulus last Saturday drew a large crowd of riders who braved the high temperatures to share in the 4-mile bike ride throughout the city. The event was hosted and organized by the Romulus Police And Community Together (PACT) organization along with the Romulus Community School. Following the bike ride with officers and city officials, participants enjoyed a picnic at Halecreek Elementary School where DJ Tony Fatta entertained the crowd and Catered to Design provided food. Colorful Events provided face painting for children and Motor City Sweet Treats was on hand with an ice cream truck providing hand-dipped treats. Members of the Romulus High School football team participated and helped with serving and directing the crowd at the event.

Westland retirees fund awarded $26 million grant

Retired City of Westland employees just received a $26 million benefit from the state of Michigan.

The monumental boost was awarded through the Michigan Department of Treasury where the grant of $26,147,293 was approved and will be applied to the City of Westland Municipal Employees Retirement System.

> *We believe that this grant will play a crucial role in promoting the financial stability of our great city.*

In 2022, the Michigan Department of Treasury was appropriated $750 million in the state budget to establish and operate a municipal pension grant program for retirement systems with a funded ratio below 60 percent. Westland officials applied for grant funding Under the program and recently received confirmation that the application was approved.

The funding under this grant will be directly allocated into the city MERS pension system. Funds are expected to arrive by the end of August and the allocation will significantly strengthen the Westland MERS pension system, officials said. The grant will result in a marked reduction in future payments needed into MERS, officials said.

"This critical appropriation from the Michigan Department of Treasury is a testament to our continued commitment to secure the future of our municipal employees," said Mayor Michael P. Londeau. "This will have a positive impact on the city's finances, ultimately leading to savings that can be further invested in the enhancement of our community."

The savings from this grant allocation are currently being calculated and will be finalized and communicated to the public by the fourth quarter of 2023.

"We would like to express our gratitude to the State of Michigan Department of Treasury for their support and confidence in our commitment to sustainable local governance," Londeau continued. "We believe that this grant will play a crucial role in promoting the financial stability of our great city."

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 31

The death of retired Sumpter Township Chief of Police James Pierce who died July 26, 2023 is mourned throughout the area.

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THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 31

A special celebration is planned tonight in Canton Township during National Night Out set for 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at Heritage Park.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 76, No. 31

There will be a one-time opportunity to take the Inktown Tour without leaving the Inkster Recreation Center beginning at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 4.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 31

Members of the Northville Township police and fire departments joined the New Hope Center for Grief Support summer camp at Maybury Farm last month.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 31

The first of two new senior transport vans has arrived at the Plymouth DPW building where it will be stored until the second van is delivered later this year.

See page 2.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 138, No. 31

The traditional Romulus Rotary Parade of Lights set for 8 p.m. Sept. 15, will officially begin the popular Pumpkin Festival again this year.

See page 3.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 31

The city Amphitheater at Goudy Park has been cordoned off and closed due to dangers discovered during an engineering inspection of the area.

See page 6.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 31

The new Fitness Court at Jaycee Park in Westland was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony last week and new pickleball courts at Curtis Wood Park are also open.

See page 6.

Canton - Plymouth

National Night Out celebration is set

There will be a special tonight in Canton Township during National Night Out planned from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at Heritage Park.

National Night Out is organized by the Canton Police and Fire Departments, the Canton Public Library, Canton Coalition for Inclusive Communities, Community Financial Credit Union and Canton Leisure Services. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, better places to live, according to a statement from the township. Live music, an interactive Canton Public Safety vehicle display and complimentary refreshments from Kona Ice are planned along with craft projects and games provided by the event sponsors.

"Each year this community event celebrates the importance of residents and neighborhoods uniting together to take a stand against crime in our community," stated Canton Community Relations Coordinator Patty Esselink.

"It is an opportunity for residents to meet and interact with police and fire personnel, as well as strengthen Canton's neighborhood spirit of camaraderie and the importance of keeping our community safe and tolerant."

All ages are invited to attend this free event promoting peace, tolerance, and the principles of building safe, inclusive communities for all. All activities will take place around the large pond in Heritage Park, located off Veterans Way behind the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

> *It is an opportunity for residents to meet and interact with police and fire personnel, as well as strengthen Canton's neighborhood spirit.*

National Night Out participants are also invited to attend a Peace Pole dedication ceremony, which will take place at 6:15 p.m. in the newly created Heritage Park Peace Pole Plaza, located on the south side of Heritage Park, off Veterans Way. This special ceremony will dedicate the recently installed Peace Pole, which bears the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 12 different languages.

Additional festivities also include the 'Thursday Night LIVE Concert' at 7 p.m. in the Amphitheater, featuring the Oneders, as well as a cultural pre-show at 6:30 p.m. by Karma Bellydance.

Canton will join forces with neighbors participating across thousands of communities from all 50 states, as well as United States territories, Canada, and military bases worldwide for the 40th Annual "National Night Out," coordinated by the National Association of Town Watch.

According to the NATW website, more than 38 million neighbors across over 17,000 communities are expected to participate in the community-building event that promotes neighborhood camaraderie.

For more information about this community event, visit www.cantonpublicsafety.org, or call (734) 394-5460.

Ford Road shopping block game continues

Shoppers in businesses located along the Ford Road corridor in Canton Township continue to enjoy random $100 gift cards presented during a special promotion now under way.

The ShopLocal, ShopCanton Color Block Game, sponsored by the Canton Downtown Development Authority, in cooperation with Canton Leisure Services and Canton Chamber of Commerce is ongoing in the green block. Visitors who shop and dine the specials from participating merchants in that color block using the ShopCanton Guide mobile app are entered for a chance to win in a weekly drawing for a $100 gift card. There will be a grand finale on the 27th week for the Grand Prize $500 gift card.

In August, the red block along Ford Road between Morton Taylor Road and Lilley Road will be the contest area. The grand prize drawing is set to take place in November.

Organizers said participating merchant specials for the red block are now available on the ShopCanton Guide mobile app. Contest details are available at ShopCanton.org and on Facebook @ShopCanton.

Sweet ride

The first of two new senior transport vans has arrived at the Plymouth DPW building where it will be stored until the second van is delivered, expected later this year. The vans were purchased using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds along with contributions from Plymouth Township, the City of Plymouth, the Pulte Family Trust on behalf of Saint John's Resort, and the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center (PARC).

Bridge sidewalk project is funded

Plymouth Township was recently awarded a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant in the amount of $545,271 for the Ann Arbor Road sidewalk project located under the CSX rail bridge.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will also contribute $350,000 to the project effort, which is expected to be repaid by the "Plymouth Walk" apartment and condo project, using the projected Plymouth Walk Brownfield Tax Capture, according to officials.

Officials said the sidewalk installation will enhance public safety and connectivity in the corridor. They added they believe the project will also leverage the ability of city officials to request improvements to the bridge by the railroad operators.

Patios

FROM PAGE 1

"outrageous" and suggested residents attend the meeting or email the commissioners at commission@plymouthmi.gov or attend the Aug. 7 meeting at Caster Park in the city.

Mayor Nick Moroz said no decision had been made at the July 17 meeting and that a framework for an outdoor dining policy had been under discussion for some time. He said currently there are two policies in place, one for the use and rental of on street parking spaces and another for sidewalk spaces.

He said he met with the restaurant owners and expected additional dialogue at the Aug. 7 meeting.

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INKSTER - ROMULUS

Rotary Festival of Lights planning now under way

The traditional Romulus Rotary Parade of Lights set for 8 p.m. Sept. 15, will officially begin the popular Pumpkin Festival again this year.

The parade takes place no matter what the weather conditions may be, organizers said, and each entry pays a $10 fee. To participate, the entries must be on wheels and lighted, the more lights, the better chance of winning the $50 prize awarded in each category. Glow sticks are not sufficient lighting for a float or participants, organizers reminded entry hopefuls. Vehicles with headlights should keep them off as they distract other entries and music is welcome, officials said. Political entries are strictly prohibited.

"This is not just another parade. This is a chance to shine," organizers said. Staging for the parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Goddard Road, west of Wayne Road. Only actual parade entries should attend the line up procedure. All other participants must park at the Romulus Progressive Club near Five Points at 11580 Ozga St. There will be a shuttle service provided to the stating location to join groups.

"This will help reduce congestion during lineup and have your vehicles at the end of the parade. Vehicles not actually participating in the parade will be allowed in the staging area only to drop off participants and then will be directed elsewhere for parking," organizers said in a prepared statement. There will be no parking available at the staging location.

There will be hot dogs and water available at the Progressive Hall for participants after the parade, they added,

Entries will be organized into six categories. Voting for the favorite for each category will be completed on the RomulusRotary Facebook page by "liking" the photos of the various floats. Winners will be announced on Facebook at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 and will be invited to a Romulus Rotary Club meeting to be recognized and awarded their prize money.

Parade entry categories include: Commercial - Any float entry advertising a business will be considered in this category. This might also include any entry that has paid employees helping in the creation of the float; Motorized - Any non-commercial float entry that is motor powered. This would include churches, family floats, and non-profit organizations; Non-Motorized - Any non-commercial float entry that is not motor powered. This might include horses, bikes, or groups of people walking in the parade; Classic Car - Any classic car, including trucks, buses and other forms of transportation; Live Music - Marching bands and/or floats with live music/entertainment and School - Any entry that might be created and affiliated or advertised as a school such as Romulus High School, Barth Elementary, Halecreek Elementary, Summit Academy, etc.

Businesses awarded grants

Romulus businesses Ginosko Modular and Mucci Farms were among those awarded funding from the most recent round of Going PRO Talent Fund grants.

Statewide, approximately $13.5 million in grants from the second cycle of fiscal year 2023 Going PRO Talent Fund were awarded to nearly 300 Michigan businesses to help approximately 8,500 workers secure employment, industry-recognized credentials and strong wages. In Romulus, Ginosko Modular was awarded $141,485 and Mucci Farms, $81,855, according to official state reports.

"For years, Michigan's Going PRO Talent Fund has provided critical funding to local businesses across the state, ensuring they can provide the necessary training to uplift and support Michigan's world-class workforce," said state Rep. Reggie Miller (D-Van Buren Township). "Strengthening our manufacturing sector has never been more important, and this funding for businesses across the state will make all the difference."

> *"This funding for businesses across the state will make all the difference.*

Video tour of city set at recreation center

There will be a one-time opportunity to take the Inktown Tour without leaving the comfort of the air-conditioned Inkster Recreation Center beginning at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 4.

Organizers said both refreshments and knowledge will be served at the free event, sponsored by members of We Rise with help from the Community Up Project and Project We Hope, Dream, and Believe. The indoor tour is designed for those who are not physically able to walk the pedestrian tour of the community.

Organizers said this is a rare opportunity which will include information about the history of the city along with the present and future.

"Inkster is at the center of American history and the heart of hub of Black history. Let's keep that legacy alive and take it forward," organizers said.

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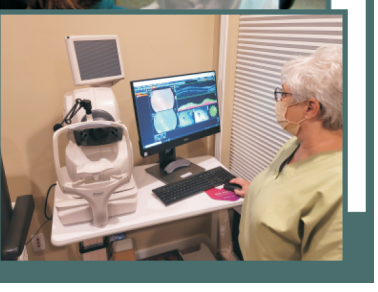

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Sumpter

Death of former township police chief mourned

Retired Sumpter Township Chief of Police James Pierce died July 26, 2023. Mr. Pierce served as chief of police in the township from 2006 until 2016.

Mr. Pierce was born Jan.12, 1950 in Detroit, the son of James and Marilyn Pierce. He served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged from service in December of 1971. He was a 3rd degree Taekwondo Black Belt and taught karate through the Metropolitan Combative Arts Dojo.

Mr. Pierce served in law enforcement for more than 45 years. He began his career as a City of Detroit Police Officer in August of 1973. During his career, he worked on the chief's staff, Internal Affairs, Gaming Division and Executive Protection where he served as Mayor Coleman Young's personal security for 10 years. He retired from the City of Detroit Police Department as a sergeant in 2003. He then briefly served as a deputy sheriff for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

Following his time as deputy sheriff, Mr. Pierce took the position of police commander with the Sumpter Township Police Department and after serving in that capacity for two years, was appointed as the Sumpter Township Police Chief in 2006. He retired from the department in February 2016. After a short retirement, he decided he was not quite ready to give up police work and returned to the City of Detroit Police Department in the Police Assistant Training Division. Mr. Pierce officially retired from police work in 2018.

Mr. Pierce was remembered fondly and with great respect by members of the Sumpter Township Police Department in an official Facebook posting. His love of the annual Sumpter Fest was recalled and he always insisted on walking the parade route from Judd to Dunn Road. He was a fixture during the festival and loved patrolling the fairgrounds on his golf cart, interacting with the residents in attendance.

In August of 2014, Mr. Pierce accepted the nomination from the late Lee Targgart, owner of Sumpter Ace Hardware, to participate in the "ice bucket challenge" to bring awareness to ALS. He, along with officers and staff, stood in the police department parking lot in their uniforms, allowing hundreds of gallons of ice water to be dumped on them from the bucket of a front loader.

"Chief Pierce treated each of us as members of his family and changed the dynamic of the police department. He was proud to be the Chief of Police of Sumpter Township and equally proud of the men and women who make up the department," noted a department spokesman. "Chief Pierce created many opportunities for members of the department to excel through education and promotions, laying the foundation for our present balanced, effective command staff and the robust, responsive, and efficient department we have today."

Mr. Pierce, who enjoyed watching horror and science fiction movies with his grandchildren, was also an avid motorcyclist. He was a member of the Forces of Magnitude motorcycle club in the early 1970s and after officially retiring, he joined the Tuskegee Airmen Motorcycle club in 2019. He enjoyed riding his Royal Blue 2017 Harley Davidson Trike with the motorcycle club and taking adventures with the love of his life, Regina.

Chief of Police James Pierce

Mr. Pierce was preceded in death by his son, Jalani in 1995 and his grandson, Monte in 2022.

Among his survivors left to cherish his memory are his wife of 53 years, Regina; a sister Zandreia Walker; his son James-Rafael (Misty); grandchildren Kyana-Jalani, Rafael-Antonio (Becca), Makaliah-Regina, Tyson-Jalani, James-Kolby and Yasmin-Denise; great-grandsons Ezekiel-James and Jayden-Isaiah; a sister-in-law Renee Peterson; nieces Christine (Victor) Ubokudom and Chanay Peterson; nephews Che Peterson and Rayan Beane, and best friend and "brother" Melvin Turner.

Final arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home. Interment was at Grandlawn Memorial Park in Detroit.

Evaluation of staffing needs at DPW will continue

The staffing level at the Sumpter Township Department of Works will remain at the current level…for now.

Department of Public Works Director John Danci provided a preliminary report regarding staffing during the July 11 meeting of the members of the board of trustees. Danci explained that using the data available, staff members were able to compile a study of costs and the number of hours employees in the department have spent on various projects.

He explained that this was a preliminary report and he was sharing it in an effort to ensure the board members were kept informed as the study continued.

"It has mostly been the parks and cemetery," he told the board, "and the spreadsheet summarizes the cost and the amount of time we've been spending trying to maintain the parks." Danci stressed that the findings were estimates and that the totals were "kind of an averaging" of staff time. The report indicated that the parks and cemetery were taking two-thirds of one employee's time.

> *The report indicated that the parks and cemetery were taking two-thirds of one employee's time.*

The estimate was based on the DPW maintaining the parks with mowing and minor projects, Danci said. "There are always things that come up," Danci explained. He said the report was an effort to begin to build a plan to see if it is "really worth hiring a fifth employee or having somebody dedicated full time to the parks." Danci added that currently, the four DPW employees were handling the workload including the routine maintenance. He said he hoped to complete a report with a study of the exact hours and cost of labor.

Trustee Matt Oddy asked if putting the maintenance of the fairgrounds into the DPW would increase the workload and require the hiring of another full-time employee in that department. He suggested looking at the entire project of maintenance would be more helpful in making a staffing decision.

"I think looking at the total project would bring some more light of what we need," he said.

Danci agreed noting that while in the summer months a single employee might be spending hours cutting grass, the same number of hours might be spent in snow removal or plowing during the winter.

"At the end of the season, we'll have more accurate data," he told the board members, noting that he would bring the report, when complete, back to the board for consideration.

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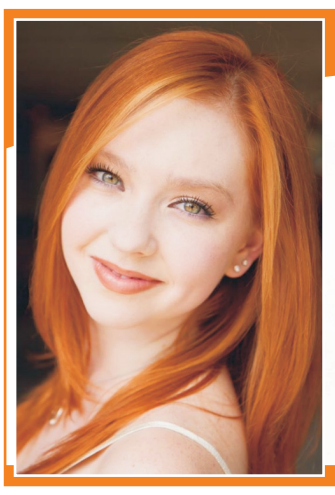

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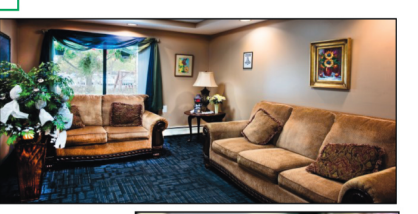

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Are you ready to help our community thrive, prosper and grow?

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Kiwanis

NORTHVILLE

Veteran of inaugural township fire department retires

Another member of the inaugural group of career firefighters in Northville Township has retired. Battalion Chief Brian Siriani worked his final shift in Northville July 16, after nearly 27 years of service.

Serendipity was the force behind his career choice. Siriani attended Wayne State University, where he played football. He said his goals were to go into elementary education and coach football. On a Friday night, however, as he visited a close friend who was a paid on-call firefighter for Northville Township, those plans changed. While Siriani was visiting, his friend was dispatched to a nearby house fire and invited Siriani to observe the scene. That moment changed the trajectory of his career, he said.

"I got to see the camaraderie between the crews," Siriani said. "I saw how they treated the homeowners with compassion, how the team environment reminded me a lot of a football team except I was watching them put out the fire. The next day, I told my mom I was going to make a career change and I enrolled in the Schoolcraft Fire Academy and left Wayne State."

While his mom was upset at the time, he said, his career success indicates he made the right choice. Siriani was named the next deputy chief of the Brighton Area Fire Authority where he began his new position July 24.

Siriani joined Northville Township as a paid on-call firefighter in 1996 and became full-time in 1999. During his tenure, he said he watched the fire department evolve. His shift when he first joined was 8 hours and comprised two people, then his shift increased to 16 hours in 1999 with four firefighters and then in May 2000, he worked the first 24-hour shift in Northville Township, which continues to this day, Now there are 11 firefighters rather than only two.

Siriani became a team leader on the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT) where he served for 19 years; was a hazardous materials specialist with the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Task Force 1, and served as both a local union president and on the union executive board for 18 years.

"Battalion Chief Siriani will definitely be remembered as a great person in addition to his extreme passion for the fire service," Northville Township Fire Chief Brent Siegel said. "He has been excellent in developing and maintaining relationships which has been key to his success as a leader.

"He was a major contributor to the growth of our department and will continue to use his strong skill set developed in Northville Township to serve the Brighton Area Fire Authority as their new deputy chief."

While working full time, Siriani finished up his bachelor's degree in public safety studies at Siena Heights University and earned a master's degree in technology from Eastern Michigan University.

He also bonded with his fellow firefighters while living with them 24-hours a day.

"When you work a 24-hour shift, you are spending almost a third of your life with the same people," Siriani said. "You see everybody's ups and downs. You see everybody's happy moments and sometimes their sad moments. You're part of their family."

His colleagues stepped up when his wife, Allison, had cancer surgery during the COVID lockdown.

"I never felt alone," he said. "Every single person in the fire department, the township administration, the manager's office, literally every single person reached out to me and I'll never forget that."

"I hope to be known for - I just hope people say I'm a good person," Siriani said.

"I know that's simplistic, but really, I just hope people say, if they mentioned my name here, that I was a good person."

Northville Fire Department Battalion Chief Brian Siriani

Tackling grief

Members of the Northville Township police and fire departments joined the New Hope Center for Grief Support summer camp at Maybury Farm last month. The camp was designed to help children of all ages cope with grief through interactive and enjoyable activities. From bonding with farm animals who have experienced loss to hand painting with horses, reading heartwarming books, and jamming to live music sessions, the participants enjoyed the day, officials said. Retired Detroit Lions player Eric Hipple joined the camp and led football drills. Photos by Keith Kolodsick

NOTICE
CITY OF ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING - DEMOLITION 23-01
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023
6:30 P.M.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Romulus City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. to hear objections to the demolition and/or removal of debris on the herein-described properties:

1. **7305 Hollywood (Single-Family Residential Structure with garage)** DP# 80 044 01 0398 000
2. **10524 Inkster (Single-Family Residential Structure with shed)** DP# 80 052 99 0017 000
3. **37187 Menton (Single-Family Residential Structure)** DP# 80 067 03 0001 000
4. **10885 Middlebelt (Awning)** DP# 80 051 99 0020 000
5. **11318 Moore (Single-Family Residential Structure)** DP# 80 077 015 0037 000
6. **28055 Van Born (Polebarn)** DP# 80 001 99 0015 000
7. **29805/29815 Van Born (Two Single-Family Residential Structure, garage, and shed)** DP# 80 005 01 1008 007
8. **31021 Van Born (Single-Family Residential Structure)** DP# 80 006 99 0015 000
9. **36009 Van Born (Single-Family Residential Structure, Polebarn, Shed, and slab)** DP# 80 0017 99 0022 000
10. **11010 Whitehorn (Multi-tenant Building)** DP# 80 077 06 0052 000

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING

Instructions for Persons with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting effectively should contact the City Clerk or send an email by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to request assistance. Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Rd., Romulus, MI 48174, Clerk@romulusgov.com

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCL 15.263a et. seq., and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA).

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: August 3, 2023

A copy of this notice will be posted on the City Website at www.romulusgov.com

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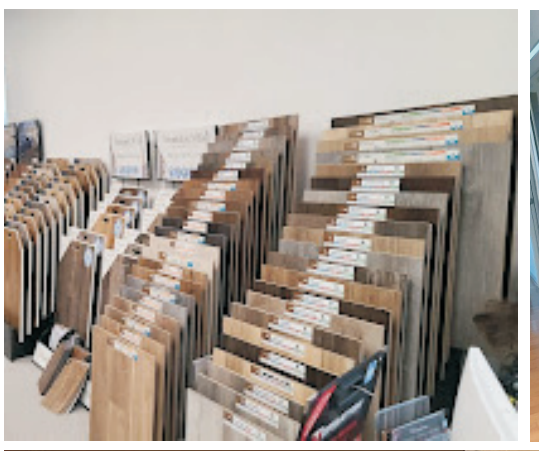

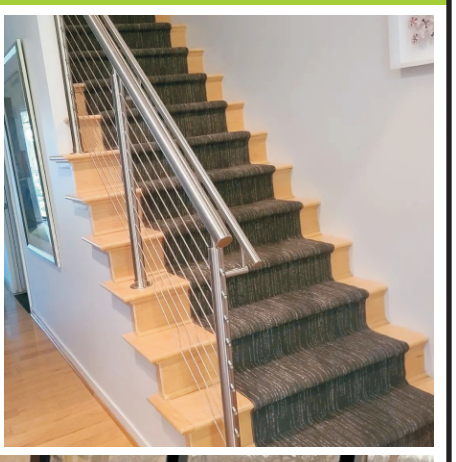

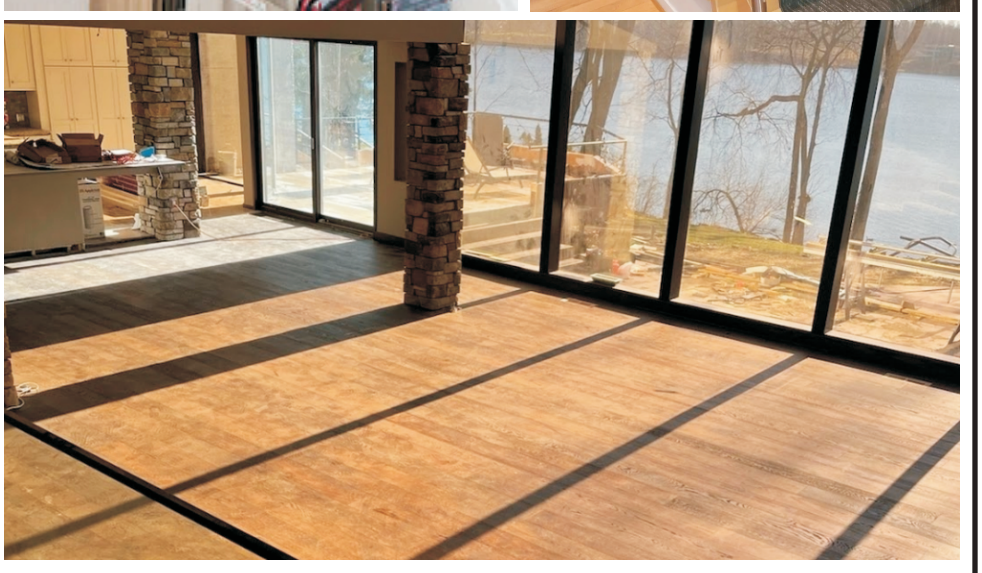

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Wayne - Westland

Dangerous Goudy Park amphitheater closed by city

Plans to demolish and rebuild the city Amphitheater at Goudy Park in Wayne didn't come a moment too soon.

City Building and Engineering Director Mike Buiten spoke to members of the Wayne City Council at their recent meeting and explained that an inspection of the amphitheater by structural engineers would be required as plans included using grant funding to raze and reconstruct the facility in Goudy Park on Wayne Road in the city. The inspection was necessary, Buiten explained, to ensure that the project could move forward using grant funding.

Engineers reported a serious risk of collapse at the structure and determined it a threat to public safety, according to a statement from officials. Engineers discovered significant erosion of the ground surrounding the open reservoir underneath the existing amphitheater. If left unaddressed, this situation not only poses a threat to public safety but also undermines the structural integrity of the amphitheater itself, officials said.

> *Engineers reported a serious risk of collapse at the structure and determined it a threat.*

The city has installed protective fencing at the site warning residents of the hazardous area.

The amphitheater and picnic area will remain closed until officials can determine the best option to move the project forward.

While the amphitheater and picnic area remain closed, the park area will continue to be open for everyone to enjoy, officials said.

The Rotary Club of Wayne will continue to host the scheduled concert at the park, but the footprint will be a bit different with the staging area on Second Street.

"As we learn more about next steps with the amphitheater, we will share that information with the public," officials said in a prepared statement.

Fit to be 'tried'

The new Fitness Court at Jaycee Park in Westland was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony last week. The fitness center, constructed in partnership with Priority Health and the National Fitness Campaign, is a free, fresh-air fitness facility designed to provide a seven-movement (core, squat, push, lunge, pull, agility and bend) workout. The Fitness Court outdoor gym was invented in 1979 by the San Francisco-based National Fitness. Staff from the Westland Fitness and Nutrition Center were on hand to perform a demonstration and members of the Westland Police and Fire departments participated in the "Race to Ribbon" Challenge. Jaycee Park is located at 3400 Hunter Ave. in the city. The city also recently opened four new Pickleball Courts at Curtis Wood Park. The park, at 36400 Palmer Road, also features dedicated parking, a pavilion, picnic areas, play structures, portable restrooms, soccer, and a walking / jogging trail. For more information, visit https://www.cityofwestland.com/443/Parks-and-Recreation.

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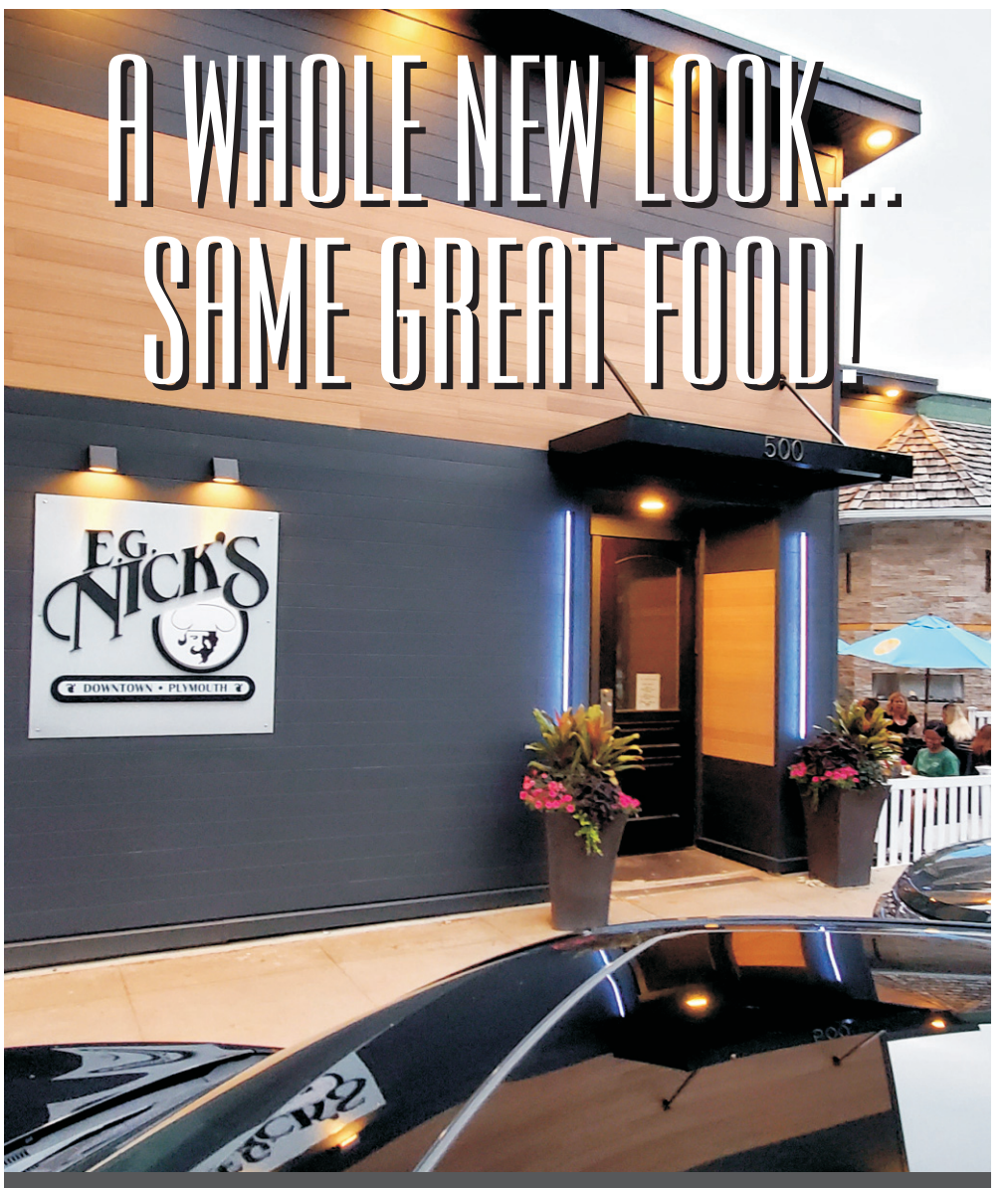

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